



The driver of this SUV said a mechanical failure caused her to crash into Westwinds Bookshop Friday afternoon. No one was hurt during the incident, and the store plans to open Wednesday or Thursday.

Car crashes into bookshop

The driver of an SUV that plowed into the front of Westwinds Bookshop says it was a mechanical problem, not driver error, that caused the crash.

Around 1:45 p.m. Friday, an SUV driven by Nancy Oates of Puritan Drive accelerated through the front wall of Westwinds, which is located in the Duxbury Marketplace off Depot Street. No one was injured.

Chris Haraden, who owns Westwinds with his wife Marilyn, said one employee was working in the shop on Friday. A customer and a delivery person had just left the store.

"Looking at what happened, we're just so thankful nobody was injured," he said. "Except for some frayed nerves, everything that was damaged can be replaced."

Oates, who is also Duxbury's town clerk, says she was backing out of a parking space in front of Westwinds after visiting the Oriental Express rug store when her engine started to rev at a high rate.

Concerned that something might be wrong with the reverse gear in her 2007 Honda CRV, Oates said she put the car in drive with the intention of pulling back into the parking spot to figure out what was wrong. It was then that she said the car lurched forward, with the engine continuing to



The only greeting card not ruined in the crash featured two nuns on the front.

rev, and hit the front of the store.

"It shot me right back ... at great speed," Oates said. She said she knew she did not confuse the brake with the gas pedal because she went backwards first. She said she never took her foot off the brake.

Oates said her car has not been checked out by a mechanic yet because it is being appraised by her insurance company. Oates is not being charged or cited in connection with accident.

The store lost most of its greeting card displays and all of its understock, which was stored under the counter. The only card remaining on the rack after the accident was a card featuring two nuns on the front.

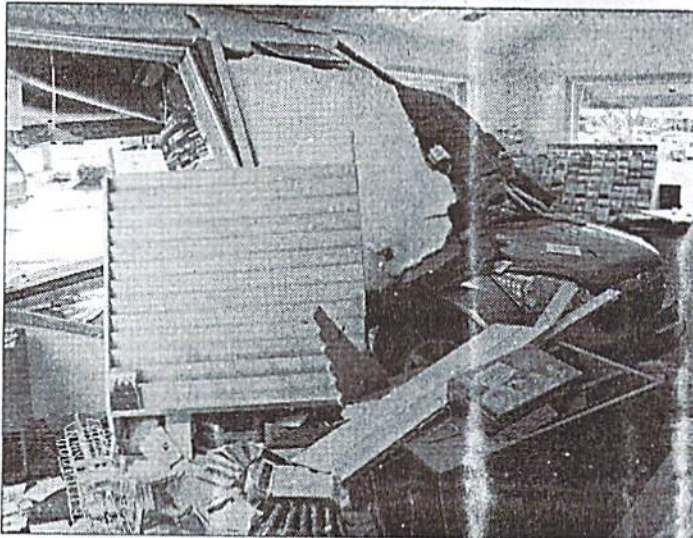
Haraden said he is hoping the store will be able to open on Wednesday or Thursday.

"It's incredible how loyal and cooperative our customers have been," he said. "All

weekend people have called and stopped by to ask if they can help us by doing some extra shopping in the part of the store that wasn't damaged." Although he couldn't allow this for insurance reasons, Haraden said he was grateful for the community support.

Oates said she feels badly about the accident.

"I'm really upset that it happened at all," she said. "I love the car but I don't think I'll ever feel safe in it again."



The accident destroyed most of Westwinds supply of greeting cards and all of their understock.